

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
2 network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects
4 configuration information about said system, and about each device of said
5 plurality of devices;
6 modifying metadata within said centralized repository to initiate configuration
7 changes within said network; and
8 propagating said configuration changes from said centralized repository to the
9 devices on said network to cause said configuration changes to take place.
- 1 2. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
2 network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects
4 configuration information about said system, and about each device of said
5 plurality of devices;
6 in response to a failure of the system ,
7 recovering the centralized repository from a backup,
8 using the metadata within the centralized repository to configure the
9 system, and
10 after the system is configured, recovering the system.

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- 1 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of gathering and storing in a centralized
2 repository metadata is performed by gathering and storing metadata in a
3 centralized repository [metadata] that resides outside said system
- 1 4. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
2 network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects
4 configuration information about said system, and about each device of said
5 plurality of devices;
6 managing configuration of said system based upon the metadata within said
7 centralized repository; and
8 in response to a failure of the system,
9 configuring the system based on the metadata restored in the centralized
10 repository, and
11 after the system is configured, recovering the system.
- 1 5. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
2 network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects
4 configuration information about said system, and about each device of said
5 plurality of devices;
6 replicating said system by performing the steps of,
7 copying said metadata to a second centralized repository associated with a
8 second system, and
9 configuring said second system based on the metadata contained in said second
10 centralized repository.
- 1 6. A method for managing a system that includes a plurality of devices arranged in a
2 network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 gathering and storing in a centralized repository metadata that reflects

4 configuration information about said system, and about each device of said
5 plurality of devices; and
6 managing configuration of at least two of an application layer, an operating
7 systems layer, and a hardware layer of said system based upon the
8 metadata within said centralized repository